

NOTICES.

Spraying for Profit.—A neat, handy and very useful little book has been issued by the Horticultural Pub. Co. of Griffin, Ga., dealing with the best methods for suppressing the more common injurious insects and fungous diseases of plants by means of spraying with the various proved mixtures. It is in neat pamphlet form, concisely written and helpfully illustrated. Price, 25 cents.

Gratis Information.—The Supervising Committee of the Experiment Farm at Southern Pines, N. C., have just issued a very valuable and important work on "Plant Food." The book is well printed and handsomely illustrated with many fine pictures. It would pay farmers to read this book, which we understand can be obtained free by sending to the Director, Exp. Farm, Southern Pines, N. C.

A Great Commercial Enterprise.—Among the many best and greatest things that North America possesses, certain manufacturing establishments always stand out conspicuously. This is notably true of The Sherwin-Williams Company, the home plant of which, at Cleveland, Ohio, holds a unique position in the manufacturing world. The Sherwin-Williams Company owns its distinction not only to the fact that it is the largest producer of paint in the world, but as well to the system and method of manufacture, the splendid conduct of its factory and the institutions established for the benefit of employees. Besides the main plant at Cleveland, The Sherwin-Williams Company have factories at Chicago and Montreal, and their own warehouses and branch offices at New York, Boston, and Toronto, with several auxiliary interests at other trade centers. The Cleveland plant consists of fifteen large buildings conveniently arranged for shipping, both by railroad and water. The Company's printing and advertising establishments are in a separate building adjacent to the main plant. For the convenience of employees a dining-room and kitchen is provided where lunches are served to all employees of the Company. Special wash-rooms and bath rooms are also provided, while perhaps the most unusual feature in the establishment is a laundry, in which all the Company's towels, aprons, table linen, etc., are laundered. The Company always extend a cordial invitation to visiting paint dealers who desire to inspect their factories.

The Bone of the Farm.—T. C. Wallace (Wallace & Fraser), Toronto, Ont., writes:—"To blame Providence because we do not always get satisfactory crops of this or that farm produce seems to be the rule among farmers. To blame our mismanagement, or rather we might term it our misconception of the natural laws, would be more reasonable. I am often told that spring wheat does not do as well as formerly because the climate is changing, yet we find that in the matter of temperature, at least, there is not a variation of more than a degree in the average of fifty years. The true reason of the difficulty is to be found in the soil. Winter wheat, of course, has a much longer season of growth, and the plants of it in the spring may be compared with a yearling going on pasture as against a newborn calf, as a representative of spring wheat in the comparison. When we remember that plants feed in comparison to their strength, we can easily understand that the larger, stronger and more vigorous plants of the winter wheat have a decided advantage. But the real truth is that under our system of farming the land has become weakened so that the spring wheat cannot find enough readily assimilable food in the soil to develop thoroughly. The day is fast approaching when the winter wheat will become poorer for the same reason.

"I am asked what is this weakening, and how it occurred. Farmers will say they have been very careful to manure plentifully with farmyard manure. Those who have done so have done well, but not well enough. Farmyard manure is composed of the manure, solid and liquid, of the animals kept on the farm, and the straw of the crops. The manure gives us nearly all the elements of the food consumed by the animals, excepting that which makes the bone of the animal. The flesh is continually wasting, and is largely carried off by the sewage of the body. The bone is permanent and non-wasting, and only such of the bone-forming elements of the fodder as are not assimilated by the animals is carried off in the manure. For this reason the animal manure must be deficient in bone-making material. The straw of the crops used for litter contains most of the soft parts of the plant, but the bone of the plants is mostly carried to the grain or seed, consequently the straw used for litter must be deficient in the bone-forming element. Further investigation shows us that this bone element is in poor supply in the land in comparison with the other important elements, and what there is of it is in such an insoluble condition that only the stronger plants can avail themselves of it. This bone element is called the "bone earth" of the soil, and is phosphate, a compound of phosphoric acid and lime. It has still another important bearing on the subject, for phosphoric acid is the dissolving influence which keeps the other elements in solution in the plant while growing, so that it may be eventually carried to the grain or fruit. Then as we build the bone and muscle of the animals and people on the farm, and send our grain and produce to build the bone and muscle of the inhabitants and animals of the cities, we are surely weakening our land, despite our best efforts to keep up fertility with the manure of the farm.

"Remember the cities through their sewers are daily pouring into the sea the "bone earth," or true strength of our land, until we are unable to obtain from our soil either the quantity or quality of the crops of former years. How then can we sit with folded hands and blame Providence for this? Science has diligently sought for and found sources of this phosphate of which we must avail ourselves. Science has also found for us a practical method of entrapping and bringing to our aid the element of the atmosphere which gives us the size and structure of our plants, namely, by the growing of clover. But science has gone further, and shown that to grow clover so that it will take up and assimilate this element of the air (nitrogen) it must be well supplied with phosphate. The elements of farmyard manure are not perfectly assimilated, and are often wasted for the want of phosphate. The form of phosphate to be used, however, is a very important matter. It must be perfectly assimilable to the plants, but as a matter of economy and for the future benefit of the land it must be lasting. Think of this."

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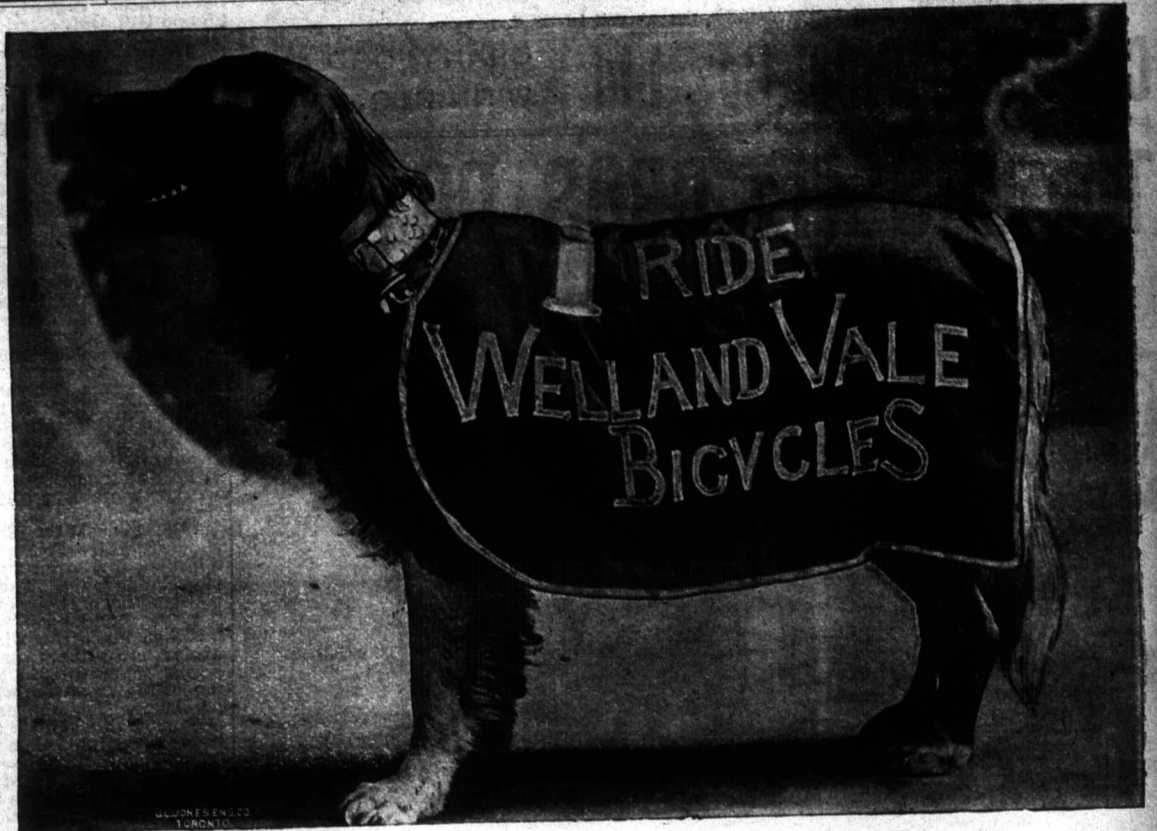


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GOVERNMENT ANALYSIS

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